

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Bacchiochi Urges Support for Bills to Increase Ed Funding for Small Towns; Hails Gov's Ed Initiatives



Praising Governor M. Jodi Rell for calling for additional education aid to Connecticut municipalities in her budget address Wednesday, state Representative Penny Bacchiochi, R-52nd District, today urged her colleagues in the General Assembly to support legislation that would help achieve that goal.

Representative Bacchiochi said she and other legislators from northeast Connecticut have co-sponsored two measures (House Bills 5239 and 6391) to establish a supplementary education grant program for towns with populations of less than 21,000 (whose wealth ranks in the bottom two-thirds when towns are ranked by wealth from highest to lowest). Both bills would allocate \$8 million for the grant program, which would be known as Education Assistance to Small Towns.

“As a legislator who strongly supports comprehensive revisions to the state’s current Education Cost Sharing program to provide more equitable funding for small towns – particularly those located in rural areas that have poverty issues – I was encouraged by Governor Rell’s call for an extensive study of the E. C. S. formula that could lead to changes that result in small towns finally receiving their fair share of state education aid,” Representative Bacchiochi said.

The Governor also called for a \$31.5 million increase in E. C. S. funding for the next fiscal year as well as an additional \$25.5 million in special education aid for Connecticut municipalities.

“The governor can count on my unwavering support for both revisions to the E. C. S. formula and for increases in E. C. S. and special education funding for our communities,” Representative Bacchiochi said. “It is my hope that legislators like myself who represent small towns continue to meet and work together in the months ahead on a bi-partisan basis to help craft a budget that is fair and protects the interests of the communities that make up the northeastern part of our state. Governor Rell has taken the first step. The rest is up to us.”